



*Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost*

November 14, 2021

11:00 a.m.

*Native American Sunday*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)

## About Our Service This Morning:

### ***Our special Guest today is Native American Flutist, Billy Crowbeak Faluski***

We welcome Billy Crowbeak Faluski, who has been a Native American flute maker since the 1980's. He was mentored in Native flute making early on by an elder he met at a pow-wow.

Billy enjoys sharing his flutes and helping people find the song they carry in their hearts. He is of Cherokee heritage on his mother's side and his father was Russian.

### **Today's Psalm**

In place of the Psalm, we will do a Round Dance in which everyone can participate. The origins of the Round Dance are in healing and spiritual dances of the Plains Indians tribes. Everyone is invited to participate.

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### **NEXT SUNDAY - Please join us!**

During Sunday School hour on November 21, in the Sanctuary, John Burke will be leading a discussion about the book *Gospel of the Indians* written by Oglala Sioux, Charles Eastman, Native American code of ethics and the ELCA Declaration to the American Indian and Alaska Native People.

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## ***Native American Sunday***

Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moment

Luther League

Temple Talk

Video from Lutheran Indian Ministries

Prelude

Billy Crowbeak, Flute

Gathering Prayer

**God of all creation, we gather as your people on this day you have made. We give thanks for the evidence of your presence found all around us. Open us to a deeper understanding of who we are in relation with one another. Remind us that the Native peoples of the Untied States provided so many with the means of survival in times past. Help us to recognize the value of the road each has walked to arrive at this place and the value of the shared journey before us all. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Dm



Thank you for— this day, Lord— Thank you for— this  
sky  
world  
church



1 2  
day. day. This heal-ing,— this  
sky sky  
world world  
church church



heal-ing,— this heal - ing day. This  
sky  
world  
church

## Call and Response Litany

Leader: Give thanks to the Creator each morning upon rising and each evening before sleeping. Seek the courage and strength to be a better person.

**Congregation: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a)

Leader: Showing respect is a basic law of life.

**Congregation: Show proper respect to everyone, love your fellow believers, fear God.** (1 Peter 2:17)

Leader: Be truthful at all times.

**Congregation: These are the things you should do: Speak the truth to one another. In the courts give real justice—the kind that brings peace.** (Zec 8:16)

Leader: Always treat your guests with honor and consideration.

**Congregation: In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;** (Matthew 7:12)

Leader: The hurt of one is the hurt of all. The honor of one is the honor of all.

**Congregation: Do nothing from selfishness or empty council, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.** (Philippians 2:3)

Leader: Receive strangers and outsiders kindly.

**Congregation: for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,** (Matthew 25:35)

Leader: All races are children of Creator and must be respected.

**Congregation: “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”** (Mark 10:14)

Leader : To serve others and be of use to family, community or nation is one of the purposes for which people draw breath on this side.

**Congregation: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I, therefore, command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”** (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Leader : Expect guidance to come in many forms – in prayer – in dreams – in solitude and in the words and actions of Elders and true friends.

**Congregation: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”** (Proverbs 3:5-6)

*Written by Shannon Perez, Dine*

First Reading - *Sacred Circles*

Richard Rohr, Franciscan Priest

*God is an infinite sphere, whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. —Alain of Lille, The Rules of Theology*

*Father Richard views the Trinity as a mutual “circle dance” of love and communion. Many mystics understood the circle as a more appropriate geometric shape than a pyramid to describe the shape of God and reality. In the conference “The Shape of God: Deepening the Mystery of the Trinity,” Richard said:*

Those of us who grew up with the common Trinitarian notion of God probably saw reality, consciously or unconsciously, as a pyramid-shaped universe, with God at the top of the triangle and all else beneath. We like the pyramid. Knowing the line of authority or the pecking order can take away our anxiety. But this is exactly what the Trinity is not—the early fathers of the church said that the closest metaphor we can get for God is a circle dance of communion. It’s not hierarchical, monarchical, or a pyramid. [1]

*The following passage from Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, a theologian and Cherokee descendant, describes the power of understanding life through the symbol of the circle:*

One model of understanding our relationship to everything is a simple symbol used among Native Americans: the circle. The harmony way of living is often referred to symbolically as a circle or a hoop. . . . Perhaps you remember when you were a child and an adult said something like, “OK, kids, gather around” or “Let’s get in a circle,” or simply, “Circle up.” Circles are found in nature; perhaps that’s why we are so comfortable imitating the pattern. . . .

The circle has no beginning and no end, so one can enter at any place or stage. The circle can explain stages of life, values, and different people groups. Circles can explain the seasons, how they all continue on to create harmony and balance.

Life is a sacred circle. When we gather in a circle, the praying has already begun. When we gather in a circle, we communicate with each other and with Great Mystery, even without a word being spoken. [2]

*In a previous book, Randy Woodley further described the symbolism of the circle for Native peoples and the earth itself:*

The circle or hoop as a symbol of life is found in nearly all Native North American tribes. The symbol is a powerful representation of the earth, life, seasons, cycles of maturity, etcetera. The

symbolism of the circle is one of the oldest in North America, having been found in various parts of the country in ancient petroglyphs. It is included in Native American traditions. Many of the ceremonies, such as Sundance, Powwow, Native American Church, and Ghost Dance, are fashioned intentionally in a circle. In observing the outdoors, you will find that a circle is a common and natural shape. Trees, rocks, whirlpools, tornadoes, flowers, etcetera all bear a common resemblance to circular objects rather than triangles or squares. In general, right angles do not naturally occur in nature without assistance from human beings. [3]

#### Psalm - *Round Dance*

#### Second Reading - *Reverencing Creation and the Creator*

*For Fr. Richard and the Franciscan tradition, the incarnation is at the heart of a creation-affirming spirituality. We meet God in creation because we meet God everywhere! Instead of a barrier to the spiritual life, creation is a doorway. People who live in deep and harmonious relationship with nature have always known this. Sarah Augustine, a Tewa woman from New Mexico, writes:*

Conversation with [Indigenous elders] has helped me to glimpse existence from an Indigenous cosmology and provided me a perspective about the nature of reality, which really begins with insight on the nature of the Creator.

Romans 1 states:

This is because what is known about God should be plain to them because God made it plain to them. Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse. (Verses 19–20, Common English Bible)

This Scripture is consistent with an Indigenous worldview—that the nature of the Creator is evident in the creation. What does creation tell us about God's divine nature?

Indigenous Peoples have been accused of animism—that is, worshipping the creation rather than the Creator. But really, the basis of Indigenous spirituality is reverence. The Diné (Navajo), my relatives from New Mexico and Arizona, “do not worship the Sun, or the sun bearer, as supposed,” Steve Darden, my Diné mentor, instructed me. Rather, they express reverence for the Spirit of Life, the Creator, by finding elements of the Creator's nature in the Sun—faithful, unyielding. Giver of Light. Giver of life. . . .

Reverence is deep respect. The Creator is evident in creation, which surrounds me. I can see it and experience it with my senses. I am part of it. Humility is acknowledging that I am not separate from creation; I am a part of a web of life. I have been taught that this mutual dependence is a gift. Life is a gift. [1]

*For Franciscan sister Ilia Delio, the universe is an overflowing expression of divine love and creativity. She seeks to help us to recover a sense of the sacredness of creation. In a recent book, she wrote this poem/prayer, which reflects a deep reverence and respect for creation:*

Creation flows from the fountain fullness  
of creative energy,  
*Springing* from a creative and dynamic Source of Love.  
Relational, personal, generative, communicative  
Love  
Spilling over on the canvas of space-time;

Creation is like a song  
 That flows in the most beautiful of harmonies.  
 What could possibly account for such  
 Creative beauty bubbling up  
 Into life?  
 Could it be  
 The Beauty of Life itself,  
 A Divine community of Love? . . . [2]

Gospel Acclamation

“Helenyan”

1\* 2 3

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

\* May be sung in canon.

Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian; transc. Charles H. Webb, b. 1933  
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Gospel

Mark 13:1-8

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

Children’s Message: Cherokee Legend

John Burke

Sermon

Pastor Bernie Dougherty

Hymn of the Day

*Many and Great, O God*

ELW No. 837

Prayers

Peace

Offering

Solo

Billy Crowbeak, Flute

Offering Prayer

Let us pray ...

**We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us. We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water. We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases. We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light when the sun was gone. We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye. Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness, and Who directs all things for the good of Her children. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer

Chinook Lord's Prayer

*Nesika papa klaksta mitlite kopa saghalie*

**Our Father Who dwells in High**

*Kloshe kopa nesika tumtum mika nem.*

**Good for our hearts Your Name.**

*Kloske mika tyee kopa konaway tillikum;*

**Good you Chief of all people;**

*Kloshe mika tumtum kopa illabee kahkwa kopa saghalie;*

**Good Your heart to make our country such as Yours up above;**

*Potlach konaway sun nesika muckamuck,*

**Give us all days our food,**

*Pee kopet-keumtux donaway nesika mesachie,*

**And stop remembering all our sins we make to them,**

*Kahkwa nesilka mamook kopa klaksta spose mamook mesachie kopa nesia;*

**As we suppose not their sin against us;**

*Mabah siah kopa nesika konaway mesachie.*

**Throw far away from us all evil.**

*Kloshe kahkwa.*

**Amen.**

Communion Music

Solo

Billy Crowbeak, Flute

Benediction

As God has loved you, go forth and love the circle of life created by God's hand. As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in Christ. May you be a blessing to all whose paths cross your own.

**Amen.**

Sending Song

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

ELW No. 879

Dismissal

## PRAYERS

**Prayers for Healing:** Dean Hauptman, Darine Prok, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Mary Baker, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg Mckee.

**Altar Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God.

**Memorial Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God, by Nancy McNeal, in loving memory of Lorin and Mary Fracis McNeal who would have celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 15.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Today, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *ELW* Liturgy and communion and 11:00 a.m. with *Native American Worship* and communion, livestreaming both services.

**We Welcome** Pastor Bernie Dougherty as our Supply Pastor.

**Youth Sunday School** - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

**Luther Middles** drive-thru food collection - 9:45 a.m. in the St Matthew parking lot.

**Transitional Housing Discussion** - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Christ the King Sunday**, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW* Liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

**We Will Welcome** Pastor Bernie Dougherty as our Supply Pastor.

**Youth Sunday School** - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

**"Gospel of the Indians"** - 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. John Burke will lead a discussion on this book written by Oglala Sioux, Charles Eastman, on Native American code of ethics and the ELCA declaration to the American Indian and Alaska Native People.

## Help Needed at St. Matthew

**Video Help Needed** - This past year our video ministry has become more important than ever. It has allowed St. Matthew to livestream worship services so we could still worship together. As with all ministries in our community of faith, it takes volunteers to make it happen. We are seeking a few more volunteers who would be willing to video our services on Sunday mornings (8:30 a.m. service, with occasional 11:00 a.m.) If you have interest or have questions about what is involved, please contact Lisa Burke or Melody Costello from Communication Evangelism or Brian Harris or Owen Blakslee, who can answer all your questions.

**Seeking Nursery Volunteers** - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship. As we continue to search for a full-time person (or 2 part-time people) to staff the nursery, we are looking for volunteers to be present with our younger members during worship and Sunday School in the nursery. In the interim, member Corey Neururer has agreed to help during Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149.

**Nursery Attendant Needed** - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship.

We are currently looking for one full-time person (or 2 part-time) to staff the nursery. The right candidate should enjoy children; be willing to play with them; change diapers/help them use the toilet, etc. The position would involve, roughly, 4 hours each Sunday (fall through spring) and 1 ½ hours during the summer and is a paid position.

If anyone in the church is interested, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149. If you know someone who could be a fit, please pass along my contact information for further discussion.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**In honor of National Native American Heritage month**, during Sunday School hour on November 21, in the sanctuary, John Burke will lead a discussion about the Native American code of ethics and the book *Gospel of the Indians*, written by Oglala Sioux, Charles Eastman.

**Christmas Cookie Exchange** - Please join us Sunday, December 5 after the late service (about 12:15 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Cookie Exchange. Bring three dozen of your favorite homemade (no store bought) cookies to exchange. Don't forget to bring a container for your cookies to take home. We will have prizes for the most festive Christmas outfit! Can't wait to see everyone's attire. If you do not wish to participate in the Cookie Exchange, please still come for our soup and salad luncheon, not to mention fellowship. Please RSVP here <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showRSVPSignUp/10c0a44a9aa2ea5fa7-stmatthew3> or in the narthex.

**Electronic Offering Updates** - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Thaddeus Neururer 617-360-1342 or email at [thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com](mailto:thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com).

## Call Committee Update

Greetings. The Ministry Site Profile has been activated! The Call Committee met on October 12, with Pastor Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop. We reviewed the next steps and process to prepare for and interview candidates. Pastor Mitch and the Bishop reviewed our Profile and have reached out to a few possible candidates.

Continue to keep us in your prayers as the Call Committee moves to this next important phase of interviewing. We are anxious to share the vision for our church and to let the Holy Spirit work as we Call a new pastor.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of us.

Your Faithful Servants,  
Jill Heck, Chair  
Christy Gabler, Vice-Chair  
Troy Gerspacher, Liaison to Executive Council  
Todd Costello, Liaison to Congregation  
Jenn Knaggs, Prayer Warrior and Devotional Leader  
Kate Ilg, Historian & Scribe  
John Burke and Aaron Reising, Technology

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Mask Mandate / Masks optional, but recommended**  
**HVAC anti-COVID air treatment / Equipment installed earlier this year**  
**No Singing / Restrictions Lifted**  
**Limiting Attendance / Restrictions Lifted**  
**Keep Exterior Doors Open / Restrictions Lifted**  
**Fellowship After Worship / Casual fellowship after church is resuming**  
**Ropes to Encourage Social Distance / Ropes removed June 18**  
**Hymnals / Hymnals returned to pews June 18**  
**Communion / Covid protocol still in place**  
**Sharing of the Peace / Covid protocol still in place**  
**Masks and Sanitizer available / Covid protocol still in place**

<b>WORSHIP SERVANTS</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>November 21</b>	<b>November 21</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Addy Shook	Trevor Terihay	Mason & Eli Cooper	Emma & Luke Gierhart
<b>Reader</b>	Judy McLaughlin	Melody Costello	Adam Scheid	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Reed	Cindy Rickly	Bruce Reed	
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Mary Dunham	Lisa Burke		
<b>Sound</b>	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse
<b>Video</b>	Brian Harris	Brian Harris	Rex Rickly	--
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Louise Cadwallader & Kelly Obermeier			

**Finance Report for September and Year-to-Date  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

St. Matthew had the following revenue  
and expenses for September.

	<b>Month of September 2021</b>	<b>Year-to-Date September 2021</b>
Total Revenue	\$ 39,373.96	\$ 289,552.57
Total Expenses	\$ 31,953.28	\$ 270,358.43
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 7,420.68	\$ 19,194.11
Net Other	\$ 14.78	\$ 147.74
Net Revenue	\$ 7,435.46	\$ 19,341.85

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**  
**Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**